

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 138739

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM TRAGEN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OAS, PEPR, EGEN, SHUM, UY

SUBJECT: VIII OASGA

REF: MONTEVIDEO 1664

1. SUMMARY. FOLLOWING OUR MAY 26 TELECON, I ARRANGED MEETING WITH URUGUAYAN AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE MATEO MARQUES SERE ON MAY 27 IN WASHINGTON AND REVIEWED WITH HIM THE AGENDA OF INFORMAL DIALOGUE AND SPECIFIC U.S. CONCERNS. DISCUSSION LASTED ABOUT TWO HOURS AND COVERED PRINCIPAL POLICY-INSTITUTIONAL, TRADE-DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES EXPECTED TO BE RAISED. CONVERSATION WAS INCONCLUSIVE, PRIMARILY AFFORDING ME OPPORTUNITY TO SPELL OUT U.S. VIEWS; MARQUES SERE GAVE FEW FIRM INDICATIONS OF GOU POSITIONS. END SUMMARY.

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2. POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS. I DETAILED OUR INTEREST IN SERIOUS DISCUSSION OF FUNCTIONS FOR INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM AND STRESSED OUR CONVICTION THAT MEANINGFUL INSTITUTIONAL REFORM OF OAS MUST FOLLOW FROM MUTUAL AGREEMENT OF MEMBER STATES ON THE OAS FUNCTIONS. MARQUES INDICATED THAT HE SHARED THIS APPROACH BUT HAD BEEN OUTVOTED BY OTHER MEMBER STATES DURING THE FIVE YEAR LONG

PROCESS OF REFORMING THE OAS CHARTER. I SUGGESTED CON-

VENIENCE OF A SMALL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE OF 5-7 MEMBER STATES WHICH COULD DEAL WITH THESE ISSUES; MARQUES SERE INDICATED THAT URUGUAY COULD NOT SUPPORT DELEGATING ITS PREROGATIVES IN THE OAS TO ANOTHER COUNTRY BUT MIGHT BE WILLING TO CONSIDER VARIATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL IF OAS PERMANENT COUNCIL WAS DESIGNATED NEGOTIATING COMMISSION WITH SUBCOMMITTEES SET UP TO DEAL WITH SPECIFIC ISSUES AND REQUIRED TO REPORT BACK TO THE PERMANENT COUNCIL. I EXPLAINED THAT OUR THINKING IS STILL PRELIMINARY BUT THAT SOME FORMULA IS NEEDED TO BREAK DEADLOCK ON INSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS BETWEEN THE VIII AND IX OASGA'S.

3. U.S. QUOTA REDUCTION. I POINTED OUT OUR NEED TO REDUCE THE U.S. QUOTA OF ASSESSED BUDGET FROM 66 TO 49 OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS. I EMPHASIZED THAT THIS REDUCTION DOES NOT IMPLY A DIMINISHED INTEREST IN THE OAS BUT RATHER AN EFFORT TO ELIMINATE ITS PREPONDERANT FINANCIAL DEPENDENCE ON ANY ONE MEMBER STATE. MARQUES INDICATED SOME SYMPATHY FOR THE U.S. POSITION BUT INDICATED RESERVATIONS ABOUT OUR REDUCING OUR QUOTA WHEN UNDER THE UN QUOTA FORMULA WE WOULD BE PAYING 83 OF THE BUDGET. HE, THEN, REVIEWED THE PROCESS THROUGH WHICH THE LATIN AMERICAN-CARIBBEAN MEMBER STATES HAD REACHED THE CONCLUSION THAT THE OAS IS AN ESSENTIAL ORGANIZATION

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FOR DIALOGUE WITH THE U.S. AND THAT ITS ELIMINATION WOULD ONLY CREATE THE NECESSITY OF ESTABLISHING A NEW MECHANISM FOR THE SAME PURPOSE. AS A RESULT, HE FELT THAT A PROPERLY DEVELOPED PROPOSAL TO REALIGN OUR QUOTA COULD BE NEGOTIATED WITH THE MEMBER STATES IF NOT AT THE VIII OASGA AT THE SUBSEQUENT ONE.

4. ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES. I INDICATED U.S. INTEREST IN SERIOUS DISCUSSION OF ROLE THAT OAS CAN PLAY IN THIS AREA IN LIGHT OF NEGOTIATIONS NOW UNDERWAY IN VARIOUS WORLD-WIDE FORUMS AND THE LIMITED RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THE OAS FOR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. I STRESSED U.S. INTEREST IN EXPLORING CHANGES IN THE FORMAT OF THE SCCN TO MAKE IT A MORE EFFECTIVE INSTRUMENT FOR DISCUSSION AND CONSULTATION ON IMPEDIMENTS TO LATIN AMERICAN/CARIBBEAN TRADE EXPANSION IN A BROADER CONTEXT THAN ACCESS TO THE U.S. MARKET. MARQUES INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER NEW APPROACHES IN THIS AREA BUT WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR EARLY TURN-AROUND IN OAS ENVIRONMENT FOR TRADE DISCUSSIONS.

5. HUMAN RIGHTS. I INDICATED OUR DESIRE TO RESOLVE

TRANSITIONAL QUESTIONS OF STATUS, JURISDICTION AND TERMS
OF REFERENCE FOR THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMIS-
SION (IAHRC) ONCE THE AMERICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

COMES INTO EFFECT. FYI: ONCE ELEVEN MEMBER STATES
RATIFY, THE CONVENTION ENTERS INTO EFFECT BUT IS NOT
BINDING ON THE REMAINING FOURTEEN MEMBER STATES WHICH
HAVE NOT YET RATIFIED; U.S. MAINTAINS PRE-EXISTING OAS
RESOLUTIONS STILL BINDING ON OTHER MEMBER STATES. ONCE
CONVENTION ENTERS INTO EFFECT, NEW IAHRC MUST BE ELECTED;
PROCEDURE FOR ELECTION AND NEW IAHRC'S AUTHORITY TO
ADMINISTER BOTH SET OF HUMAN RIGHTS NORMS NEEDS TO BE
AFFIRMED. END FYI. I SAID THAT U.S. WILL DEAL OBJECTIVE-
LY WITH THE SPECIFIC COUNTRY REPORTS PRESENTED BY THE
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IAHRC AND HOPED URUGUAY WOULD AVOID EXCESS OF GRENADA.
MARQUES WAS VERY CRITICAL OF THE IAHRC REPORT ON URUGUAY
AND INDICATED GOU CAN BE EXPECTED TO PRESENT A STRONG
BUT REASONED ATTACK ON THE IAHRC REPORT; HE SAID THE
GOU POSITION WILL BE QUITE DIFFERENT FROM THAT TAKEN IN
GRENADA. I THEN STRESSED THAT U.S. CONSIDERS HUMAN
RIGHTS A VITAL ELEMENT IN INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND
URGED HIM TO VIEW THE IAHRC NOT AS A THREAT BUT AS A
CONSTRUCTIVE FORCE FOR HELPING URUGUAY REGAIN ITS STAND-
ING AS AN ADVOCATE AND PROTECTOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

6. COMMENT. MARQUES IS A SKILLED DIPLOMAT WITH IN-
DEPTH KNOWLEDGE OF ISSUES AT PLAY IN THE OAS BUT HE HELD
BUT LITTLE PROMISE FOR MORE FORTHCOMING URUGUAYAN POSI-
TION ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN NEAR TERM. WHILE I EXPECT A
MUCH MORE PROFESSIONAL URUGUAYAN DELEGATION THAN THAT
HEADED BY ROCA, I ANTICIPATE IT MAY BE MORE DIFFICULT
TO DEAL WITH ADROIT MARQUES MOVES ON HUMAN RIGHTS THAN
IT HAS BEEN TO BLUNT THE SHRILL ATTACKS OF THE ALVAREZ-
ROCA ERA.

7. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OF THE U.S. POSITION FOR THE
VIII OASGA WILL BE PROVIDED YOU SHORTLY AS BASIS FOR
YOUR CONVERSATION WITH ROVIRA AS WE DISCUSSED IN OUR
TELECON. VANCE

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